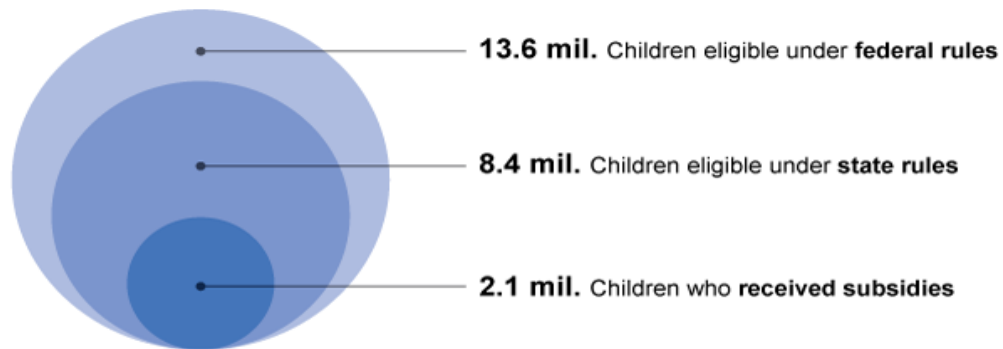


This optional tool is designed to assist a Lead Agency in identifying their policies on CCDF eligibility, in comparison to the federal CCDF eligibility rules, and to compare eligibility policies established for initial determination and redetermination. It is meant to foster a discussion among team members and partners, and is not required to be used.

Estimated Number of Children Eligible for and Receiving Child Care Subsidies, FY 2015



Source: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Factsheet: Estimates of Child Care Eligibility & Receipt for Fiscal Year 2015 (Washington, D.C.: January 2019). | GAO-19-222R



Defining CCDF Eligible Children and Families

		Lead Agency Eligibility Policy at <u>Initial Determination</u> (States have discretion within the federal parameters to set more restrictive eligibility policies. Generally, fewer families qualify for subsidies under state eligibility rules than under federal eligibility rules. (https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/696930.pdf))	Lead Agency Eligibility Policy at <u>Redetermination</u>
Age of Child	Must be younger than age 13 at the time of eligibility determination.	3.1.1 a.	
	Or children can be served through age 18, if unable to care for themselves physically and/or mentally	3.1.1 b	
	Or children can be served through age 18, if under court supervision.	3.1.1 c	
Reason for Care	Parents must be working or participating in education or training activities, except for temporary interruptions.	3.1.2	
	How does the Lead Agency define the following terms for purposes of determining eligibility:	3.1.2 a	
	Working - Any work-related activities may be included in the definition of working, including periods of job search, travel time to and from work, self-employment, and temporary interruptions.	3.1.2 a. i.	
	Job Training -	3.1.2 a. ii.	
	Education	3.1.2 a. iii.	
	Attending (a job training or educational activity) - Any training or education-related activities may be included in this definition, including study time, travel time to and from education or training, and attendance of online courses in the home.	3.1.2 a. iv.	

	Can parents qualify for CCDF assistance on the basis of education and training participation without additional work requirements?	3.1.2 b	
	Does the Lead Agency provide child care to children in protective services?	3.1.2 c	
	Define protective services - This definition may extend beyond formal child welfare, foster care, or subsidized guardianship cases. Lead Agencies may elect to include other vulnerable populations, such as homeless children, children of teen parents, and children at risk of needing protective services.	3.1.2 c. i.	
	Are children in foster care considered to be in protective services for the purposes of eligibility determination?	3.1.2 c. ii.	
	Does the Lead Agency waive the income eligibility requirements for cases in which children receive, or need to receive, protective services?	3.1.2 c. iii.	
	iv. Does the Lead Agency waive the eligible activity requirements for cases in which children receive, or need to receive, protective services on a case-by-case basis?	3.1.2 c. iv.	
	v. Does the Lead Agency provide respite care to custodial parents of children in protective services?	3.1.2 c. v.	
Family Income Limits			
	How does the Lead Agency define income? Lead Agencies may deduct or exclude some types of income when determining eligibility. Common exclusions include federal and state tax credits; income from scholarships, grants, and loans; means-tested government benefits (such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF], Social Security, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP]); in-kind income; child support payments or arrearages; and nonrecurring lump-sum benefits. Lead Agencies can also exclude income from certain family members. Common exclusions include income from children younger than 18, minor parents and their parents, and foster parents and subsidized guardians.	3.1.3 a	

	Family income must be at or below 85 percent of the State median income for a family of the same size. Lead Agencies have the flexibility to set the maximum income for eligibility as long as it does not exceed 85 percent of SMI. Every state is now required to have two-tier eligibility, unless the initial eligibility threshold is set at 85 percent of SMI.	3.1.3 b	3.2.5
	Family assets cannot exceed \$1 million.	3.1.4 a.	
	Is the asset limit waived on a case-by-case basis for families defined as receiving protective services?	3.1.4 b.	
Other Eligibility Policies a State has Implemented.			
		3.1.5 a.	3.1.5 b.